

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2001
EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING AUDITORIUM
Rockville, Maryland

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Gordon A. Aoyagi, Chairman
Ronald Ogens, Vice Chair
Fernando Bren
Tom Carr
Robert L. Freeman
Len Marco
Anita Powell
Paul Sterling, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Neil Shorb, Staff Director
George Giebel, Program Manager
Annette Cheng, Office Services Coordinator
Richard Melnick, OCA

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chief Dennis Urban, Bethesda FD
William Wells
Eileen Queenin
Deputy Chief James Master, BCCRS
Nancy A. Stasulis, Laytonsville VFD
Marcine Goodloe, Wheaton VRS
Tim Jaques, BCCRS
Vice President Lisa Burchell, BCCRS
Cheryl Reed, MCFRS
Chief Roger Strock, DFRS
President Eric Bernard, Rockville VFD

District Chief William Ale, MCCFROA
Assistant Chief Roger A. McGary, DFRS
Assistant Chief Randy Wheeler, DFRS
Chief Donald Flinn, Silver Spring VFD
Chief John Knott, Silver Spring VFD
Chief David S. Dwyer, DVFRS
Amy Davis, IAFF Local 1664
President Robert F. Kidd, Chevy Chase FD
Chief Alan Hinde, Rockville VFD
President Terri Gartner-Surette, Damascus VFD
President Virginia Miller, Bethesda FD

100 - CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission was called to order by Chair Aoyagi at 7:10 p.m. in the Lobby Auditorium of the Executive Office Building in Rockville, Maryland.

101- Comments – the Fire and Rescue Commissioners

Commissioner Bren questioned the inclusion of “*subject to applicable collective bargaining provisions*” in his motion on the adoption of the Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct regulation.

Fire Administrator Aoyagi reported that the regulation refers to the requirement of notice and opportunity to the Union to comment on any policy adopted by the Commission that may affect the collective bargaining agreement. As a collective bargaining agent, the Union has the right to comment on the terms and working conditions of its employees.

102- Report of the Chairman

- High School Fire Science Program (HSFSP)

Fire Administrator Aoyagi reported that the briefing on High School Fire Science Program is scheduled before the Public Safety and Education Committees of the County Council on February 12, 2001.

The HSFSP is available to students through a cooperative arrangement with MCFRS and Montgomery County Public Schools. The program prepares students for career and volunteer firefighter and emergency medical services positions and can provide the foundation for post secondary training in fields such as fire science, fire protection technology, fire protection engineering and medical and para-medical fields. Montgomery College provides credits for completion of the High School cadet program.

Fire Administrator Aoyagi stated that the MCFRS plans to host a meeting with all the High School counselors to discuss this program to attempt to expand participation..

- Suicide Prevention Summit

Fire Administrator Aoyagi reported that the MCFRS, in a joint labor/management initiative, is sponsoring a Suicide Prevention Summit on February 24, 2001. The purpose of this one-day conference is to increase awareness, education, and prevention of suicide in the fire service. Dr. Jeff Mitchell will be the impact speaker for the Suicide Prevention Summit.

- Appointment of the MCFRS Medical Director

Fire Administrator Aoyagi reported the appointment of Dr. Roger Stone for the position of MCFRS Medical Director. He thanked Dr. Brecher for his many years of dedicated medical services with the MCFRS and his vision in helping to establish the Emergency Medical Services in Montgomery County.

Fire Administrator Aoyagi reported that Recruit Class 19 is a very diverse class. This was attributed to MCFRS outreach to women and to minority communities.

Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2001 Meeting

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Ogens to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2001, meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Freeman and PASSED unanimously.

200- CONSENT CALENDAR

201- Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct Executive Regulation

Chairman Aoyagi reported that the Commission had adopted the Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct Regulation at its January meeting. After reviewing the regulation for legality and form, the County Attorney's Office offered some technical amendments to the document for clarification. A copy of those changes was distributed at tonight's meeting and reviewed by Chair Aoyagi. There was no discussion on the technical changes offered by the County Attorney.

A MOTION was made by Sterling to approve the Consent Calendar. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Freeman and PASSED unanimously.

300- FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

301- Operations

Committee Chair Ogens reported that the Operations Committee met on January 24, 2001. The Committee discussed the Phase I Report of the EMS Service Delivery Study and the Standard Apparatus Identification Graphic Design for County- Owned Fire/Rescue Service Vehicles (item 401 of tonight's agenda). In addition, Chief Urban of the Bethesda FD gave a presentation on the replacement of Truck 6. Members of the Committee concurred that it was a budgetary issue rather than an operational issue.

302- Human Resources, Safety and Training

Committee Chair Powell reported that the Committee met on February 5, 2001. Topics of the discussion were: Development of Volunteer EMS Medical Standards; Adequacy and Competency of MCFRS Training; training on Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct; wellness initiative; safety and driver training.

303- Finance, Technology and Planning

Committee Chair Bren reported that the Committee met on January 18, 2001. The Apparatus/Facilities Subcommittee continues to engage in a number of studies. The Committee is requesting a clarification from the Fire Administrator on the responsibilities of the three FRC Committees in order to avoid duplication of their efforts. The Planning Subcommittee is going to Prince William County to look at a software program called CAD ADAM used by the Prince William County Fire and Rescue Service for resource deployment. The Technology Subcommittee has completed a draft plan for the Information Technology Strategic Plan and is seeking a way to dovetail the plan into the entire strategic plan system.

400- BUSINESS ITEMS

401- *Standard Apparatus Identification Graphic Design for County-Owned Fire/Rescue Service Vehicles policy*

Commissioner Ogens gave a briefing on the background of the *Standard Apparatus Identification Graphic Design for County-Owned Fire/Rescue Service Vehicles* policy. On January 24, 2001, the Operations Committee reviewed the comment summary (Attachment 401-c) and made a few changes to the policy. Commissioner Sterling made a motion to recommend to the FRC the adoption of the *Standard Apparatus Identification Graphic Design for County-Owned Fire/Rescue Service Vehicles* policy. Assistant Chief Guercio seconded the motion and the motion to recommend the policy to the FRC was approved unanimously.

Mr. Giebel reported that after staff review of Appendix D of the policy, the Fire Administrator suggested these following changes to Appendix D:

- Title: strike Design
- First sentence: strike *graphic design* after color scheme
- Burtonsville VFD: delete *and red stripping with blue unit ID* from sentence.
- Chevy Chase FD: strike *4 inch* and *1 inch* from sentence.
- Gaithersburg-Washington Grove FD: replace *over* with *with*
- Strike Hyattstown VFD from Appendix D

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Ogens to adopt Resolution No. FY 12-01 which approves the Standard Apparatus Identification Graphic Design for County-Owned Fire/Rescue Vehicles Policy No. 01-06, as recommended by the FRC Operations Committee, with the amendments made to Appendix D. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling.

Commissioner Carr suggested that the LFRDs be given the option to display the community identification on the sides of the apparatus.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to amend the graphics plan for Tax Funded Trucks and Aerial Towers (A1), Tax Funded Engines and Rescue Squads (B1, B4), and Tax Funded EMS Units (C1); design scheme in Appendix A, B, and C which allows the LFRD the option to display the LFRD name or the community identification on the front bumper, sides, and the rear of all trucks and aerial towers, engines and rescue squads, and EMS units. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Powell.

Fire Administrator Aoyagi invited members of the audience to speak.

- Eric Bernard, President of the Rockville VFD / Vice-Chair of the Fire Board

President Bernard reported that on behalf of the Presidents and Chiefs of the LFRDS, he was voicing his opposition to the adoption of the Standard Apparatus Identification Graphic Design for County-Owned Fire/Rescue Vehicles Policy.

President Bernard addressed the Commission with comments from the Vice-President of the Kensington VFD, who strongly opposed the adoption of this policy. Vice-President Robert Spence requested that the FRC reconsider the approval of this policy.

Commissioner Ogens reported that two Chiefs who are members of the Operations Committee agreed to adopt the above-referenced policy at the January 23, 2001 Operations Committee meeting. He further stated that the LFRDs now have the option to display either their LFRD's name or community identification on the apparatus.

Commissioner Carr reported that the 17 Chiefs who were present at the January 25, 2001 Chiefs Committee meeting voiced no objection to the changes to the policy that were recommended by the Operations Committee to this policy. Chief Stanton of the Kensington VFD attended that meeting.

▪ President Kidd, Chevy Chase Fire Department

On behalf of the Chevy Chase FD, President Kidd proposed his changes to the policy:

- the safety message should be deleted from engines
- move the LFRD name to where "Montgomery County" is displayed
- change "Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service" to "Montgomery County, Maryland"

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Bren to amend Sec. 2 – Applicability of the policy to read: “ *This policy applies to all fire and rescue apparatus primary units and EMS units that are purchased, rehabilitated, or refurbished with County tax funds and titled to Montgomery County Government*”. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Freeman and PASSED unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sterling to amend the policy to display the MCFRS emblem on the left, and the LFRD's emblem on the right as was proposed in the previous draft of this policy. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Bren and FAILED with Commissioners Bren, Powell, and Sterling voting for the motion and Commissioners Carr, Freeman, Marco, and Ogens voting against.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Ogens to adopt Resolution No. FY 12-01 which approves the Standard Apparatus Identification Graphic Design for County-Owned Fire/Rescue Policy No. 01-06 as amended. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling and PASSED with Commissioners Bren, Carr, Freeman, Ogens, Powell, and Sterling voting for the motion and Commissioner Marco voting against.

402- Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund (State 508)

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Bren to allocate the additional Senator William Amoss Funds utilizing FY00 Funds to the following corporations:

Corporation	Amount Requested	Description
B-CC RS	\$7,000.00	Personal Protective Gear
Cabin John Park VFD	\$15,000.00	River Rescue Equipment
Laytonsville VFD	\$ 18,000.00	PBI Running Gear
Rockville VFD	\$ 25,000.00	Replace Hydraulic tools for RS3
Rockville VFD	\$ 86,587.89	Funds to be used toward the Replacement of RS-3
Wheaton VRS	\$ 60,000.00	Replace 1993 Medic Unit
Wheaton VRS	\$ 40,000.00	Replace 1993 Ambulance
Total	\$251,587.89	

MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Freeman and PASSED unanimously.

500- FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES REPORTS

501- DVFRS Chief

Chief Dwyer reported that at the January 25, 2001 Chiefs Committee meeting, he was elected as Chairman of the Chiefs Committee. However, the Chiefs Committee was then disbanded. He and the Fire Administrator will attempt to meet with the LFRD Chiefs to discuss this matter.

Chief Dwyer reported that the public hearing for the LOSAP Legislation is scheduled for February 27, 2001 at the County Council Office. He also reported that the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce 27th Annual Fire/Rescue Service Awards Program is scheduled for April 27, 2001 at the Indian Spring Country Club.

502- DFRS Chief

Chief Strock reported that the graduation for the EMT-B and Essentials of Firefighting classes is scheduled for March 2 at 7:00pm at the PSTA. He also reported that the Total Team Challenge day will be held on May 20, 2001.

Chief Strock advised that Recruit Class 19 begins on February 20, 2001. 41 people are enrolled in this class.

503- Report of the Fire Board

There was no report.

504- Report of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association

There was no report.

505- Report of the Montgomery County Career Fire/Rescue Officers Association

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There was no report.

506- Report of the Montgomery County Career Firefighters Association

There was no report.

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Freeman to adjourn the meeting. MOTION
SECONDED by Commissioner Ogens and PASSED unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon A. Aoyagi
Chairman